In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 25-31 as indicated below.

1. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) A computer system, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory comprises program instructions configured to implement:

a plurality of device drivers, each operable to:

monitor an operational status of one of a plurality of devices, wherein to monitor the operational status the device driver is configured to generate environment data representative of at least one parameter value of at least one sensor associated with the device; and

consequent upon a change in the operational status of the monitored device, to generate fault report data indicating whether the change of operational status of the monitored device was caused internally within the monitored device or externally by another device connected to the monitored device.

19. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the fault report data includes an indication of an operational status of the monitored device.

20. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein, if the fault report data indicates that the change of operational status of the monitored device was caused externally, the device driver is operable to generate fault direction information indicative of a connection from which the external fault is perceived.

21. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the operational status of the monitored device is one of: up, indicating no fault, degraded, indicating that the monitored device is still operational but with impaired performance, or down, indicating that the monitored device is not operational.

22. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the operational status of the monitored device is determined from at least one of: a time to respond to a command, an amount of data communicated via an I/O bus, an amount of data processed by the monitored device, whether information is being correctly processed, or from an error interrupt signal generated by the monitored device.

23. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the program instructions are further configured to implement a fault response process operable to analyze generated fault report data generated by one or more of the plurality of device drivers to determine a faulty one of the plurality of devices.

24. (Previously presented) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein each of the plurality of device drivers generates the operational status information from at least one of: a number of memory accesses performed, a time taken to respond to a command, and an amount of data processed.

25 – 31. (Canceled).

32. (Previously presented) A computer system, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory comprises program instructions configured to implement:

a plurality of device drivers, each operable to:

monitor an operational status of one of a plurality of devices,

generate operational status information from at least one of: a number of memory accesses performed, a time taken to respond to a command, and an amount of data processed; and

consequent upon a change in the operational status of the monitored device, to generate fault report data indicating whether the change of operational status of the monitored device was caused internally within the monitored device or externally by another device connected to the monitored device.